

RECYCLING UPDATE

2022 “CAMPUS RACE TO ZERO WASTE COMPETITION” (FORMERLY RECYCLEMANIA) STARTS JAN 30, 2022

Iowa State University will again be participating in this year’s “Campus Race to Zero Waste Competition”- formerly Recyclemania. This is a competition the University has participated in for three consecutive years which is organized by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for colleges and universities to assist them in advancing campus recycling and waste reduction efforts. The competition, which runs for eight weeks, starts on January 30 and goes through to March 26, and requires a weekly data reporting of weights of materials collected across campus.

This year, we will be participating in three categories:

- Per Capita Recycling- focuses on increasing our recycling rate on campus by tracking and reporting recyclables collected on campus.
- Electronics Waste- tracks the amount of computers, printers, consumer electronics, and other scrap or refurbishable eligible materials collected across campus.
- Race to Zero Waste- One Building Challenge- focuses on comprehensive effort to reduce, reuse and recycle the greatest amount of waste from a single designated building.

You can find the University’s 2021 performance at the competition [here](#).



EVERYDAY SIMPLE ACTS TO SUPPORT WASTE REDUCTION

With the spring semester beginning, it is important to continue to encourage some simple daily actions that support waste reduction on campus. The following are a few ways to do so:

- **Use a reusable bottle/cup for beverages on-the-go**

I'm sure most people have a reusable water bottle, but do you use it all the time? Determine this daily to put your reusable bottle to use, save money, and reduce waste. Having your own reusable water bottle with you will reduce your probability of buying more expensive beverages on the go. This will significantly reduce and possibly eliminate single-use containers they come in. Kindly note that while most cans and bottles can be recycled, they require a lot of energy to be produced, shipped to the bottling facility, and then to the store for purchase.

- **Purchase wisely and recycle**

You can reduce the amount of waste you produce by purchasing products that come with less packaging and/or come in packaging that can be recycled. See [signage](#) on what is acceptable in the recycling program on campus.

- **Avoid single-use food and drink containers and utensils**

Whenever possible, try to avoid single-use coffee cups, disposable utensils, straws, and napkins. ISU Dining has a discount on your coffee for bringing your own reusable mug. Keep a set of silverware at work or in your backpack that can be washed and reused. Ditch the plastic straw altogether or buy reusable metal ones instead. Make it a daily commitment to reduce your use of these products because it adds up to make a big impact.

- **Buy secondhand items and donate used goods**

Before you go buy something new, consider buying secondhand which can save you lots of money. There are many thrift stores in town like Goodwill, Overflow, Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, where you can buy used items of your choice. The impact of this simple action is that you'll be supporting local charities in addition to saving items from ending up in the landfill.

Source: Culled from The Nature Conservancy